Emission of fly ash by Indraprastha and Rajghat Power Houses

2600. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge quantity of fly ash is released by Indraprastha and Rajghat power houses causing respiratory and other problems to the residents of Delhi;

(b) whether devices to control emission of fly ash installed earlier have become ineffective; and

(c) if so, what alternative steps are proposed to control the huge emission from these power houses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir. The Indraprastha and Rajghat power houses in Delhi generate 1600 MTs of fly ash daily on an average. The ash is transferred through slurry pipes to ash ponds. Dust extraction and dust suppression equipments are installed in coal handling plants.

(b) No, Sir. The emission of fly ash in these power houses is controlled by installation of electrostatic precipitators (ESPs). The ESPs installed on all the units of Indraprastha and Rajghat power houses are reported to be effectives and are within the prescribed pollution control standards, except the precipitator installed at Unit-V of Indraprastha Station where the emission is reported to be slightly above the prescribed norms.

Delhi Vidyut Board has already taken up retrofitting of ESPs at unit-V of Indraprastha Station. Erection work is in progress and is likely to be completed by March, 1999.

Billing of Weavers by State Electricity Boards

2601. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that weavers are being exploited by preferring huge electricity bills by State Electricity boards especially by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board for use of electricity for powerlooms;

(b) if so, whether such bills are settled to a lesser amount with one or the other considerations;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt after consultation with State Governments, a uniform pattern of billing of powerlooms as per their capacity; and

(d) by when passbooks are likely to be issued to such weavers for billing on the pattern of billing of Tubewells to avoid losses due to theft of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Concession to Independent Power Producers

2602. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign and Indian corporates have demanded several fiscal concessions to make the private power projects more bankable and profitable, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 24th November, 1998.

(b) how many IPP (Independent Power Producers) Projects are hanging fire for the last 2-3 yeas for want of fiscal concessions and demanding leasing option for equipment which would substantially

bring down the capital costs in these ventures; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The policy to encourage greater private sector participation in the Indian Power Sector was announced in 1991. Various suggestions from private power developers and state governments have been received since 1991 for streamlining the development of the private sector power schemes including suggestions for concessions etc.

(b) Out of the 92 private sector power projects being monitored by the Ministry of Power and requiring the techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority, only 11 projects have so far achieved financial closure. As per information available, the main reason for most of the projects not achieving financial closure is the reluctance by the lenders in releasing funds in the backdrop of difficulties being faced by the promoters in securing a credible security cover such as allocation of escrow cover and also finalising a bankable fuel supply/transportation agreement. Government has not perceived the lack of fiscal concessions and leasing option for equipment as being a major constraint for achievement of financial closure.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Power from Pakistan

2603. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed power transfer scheme from Pakistan;

(b) whether there is any existing transmission line for power import from Pakistan;

(c) whether any new transmission line/ sub station is to be constructed for this purpose;

(d) if so, the length of the transmission line, its capacity, transmission voltage and its cost;

(e) the tariff of this imported power and mode of payment; and

(f) the names of the States to which these power will be supplied?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (f) Technical level discussions were held at Islamabad on November, 25-26, 1998 between the two countries on purchase of power from Pakistan. It was agreed during the discussions that the next round of discussions would be held in New Delhi on mutually convenient dates for consideration and in-principle agreement in the power export possibility identified for the short term and subject to the conclusion of such agreement, commercial discussions will follow. No final decision has yet been taken.

Assistance to Hydro Electric Potential in Himachal Pradesh

2604. SHRIMATI CHADRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested for allocation of Rs. 40 crore under Central Support Scheme for Survey and Investigation in Himachal Pradesh to harness unexploited Hydro Electric Potential in the State at a faster speed;

(b) if so, the details thereof with pending date of such request;

(c) whether Government propose to take some decision on these requests; and